

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 3 through 12 with the following amended paragraph:

This application is related to U.S. Patent [Application] entitled "SCALABLE MULTIDIMENSIONAL RING NETWORK" by P. Lothberg and A. Bates, filed March 23, 2000, Application Serial No. 09/535,437, now Patent No. 6,775,295, issued August 10, 2004, which is incorporated in its entirety by reference herein. This application is also related to U.S. Serial No. 09/036,539 filed March 6, 1998, now Patent No. 6,314,110, issued November 6, 2001, entitled METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DISTRIBUTED BANDWIDTH ALLOCATION FOR A BI-DIRECTIONAL RING MEDIA WITH [SPACIAL] SPATIAL AND LOCAL REUSE and U.S. Serial No. 09/067,482 filed April 27, 1998, now Patent No. 6,269,452, issued July 31, 2001, entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FAULT RECOVERY FOR A TWO LINE BI-DIRECTIONAL RING NETWORK, both of which are incorporated in their entirety by reference herein.